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Letter dated 14 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request the Security Council to terminate the prohibitions imposed by Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Following the democratic changes, the new Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has undertaken to restore and develop its relations both with neighbouring countries and with international organizations. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been fully cooperating with the international community, particularly with KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), in implementing Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and resolving the situation in the ground security zone in southern Serbia. The agreement on a phased return of the Army of Yugoslavia to the ground security zone demonstrated the commitment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to a peaceful diplomatic solution to the problem, with maximum restraint and in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). By the entry of joint Yugoslav security forces into the ground security zone, preconditions were created for the implementation of the plan of the governments of Serbia and of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to resolve problems in this area, which has the support of the international community.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is also a signatory to the agreement concluded in Florence in 1996 on subregional arms control. In addition, on the basis of article 4 of annex 1.B of the Dayton/Paris agreement, Yugoslavia participates in the system of arms control with strictly defined limits. Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has assumed all obligations under the OSCE Vienna document. As a member of the United Nations and OSCE, a signatory and guarantor of the Dayton/Paris agreement, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will continue to be fully engaged in negotiations aimed at regional and subregional disarmament, in line with articles 4 and 5 of annex 1.B of the Dayton/Paris agreement.

The threat from illegal arms shipments to Kosovo and Metohija cannot justify keeping in place the arms embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. KFOR, UNMIK and neighbouring countries are obliged to prevent this even after the embargo is lifted, in accordance with international norms and the domestic legislation of the States concerned. As for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, it

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will continue to prevent all illegal arms trade, in compliance with assumed international obligations.

The lifting of the arms embargo would represent an important sign of support and encouragement to the democratic authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue along the road of cooperation with major international actors towards stabilizing the situation in the region. That would be fully in line with the proclaimed goals of the international community to assist the development of democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its integration in all international processes.

In view of the fact that all the reasons that led to the imposition of bans introduced in operative paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1160 (1998) no longer exist, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects that this request will be favourably reviewed by the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you circulated this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dejan **Sahovic**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative